

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61B5/083 G01N21/35

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61B G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 444 985 B1 (KUBO YASUHIRO ET AL) 3 September 2002 (2002-09-03) column 5, line 50 - column 12, line 37 -----	1-7
A	US 2001/021815 A1 (CARLEBACH EPHRAIM ET AL) 13 September 2001 (2001-09-13) paragraphs '0040! - '0046! paragraphs '0083! - '0086! -----	1-7
A	WO 02/25250 A (HAMAO TAMOTSU ; KUBO YASUHIRO (JP); MIZUI HIROAKI (JP); MORI MASAOKI ()) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28) page 9, line 21 - page 23, line 6 -----	1-7



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Rivera Pons, C

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6444985	B1	03-09-2002	JP 3176302 B2	18-06-2001
			JP 10197443 A	31-07-1998
			JP 3014652 B2	28-02-2000
			JP 10197444 A	31-07-1998
			AT 271218 T	15-07-2004
			AU 736159 B2	26-07-2001
			AU 5343998 A	03-08-1998
			CA 2277945 A1	16-07-1998
			CA 2429733 A1	16-07-1998
			CN 1410754 A	16-04-2003
			CN 1102238 B	26-02-2003
			DE 69825033 D1	19-08-2004
			EP 1411344 A2	21-04-2004
			EP 0953148 A1	03-11-1999
			ID 22451 A	14-10-1999
			WO 9830888 A1	16-07-1998
			PT 953148 T	30-09-2004
			TW 421713 B	11-02-2001
			US 2002011569 A1	31-01-2002
US 2001021815	A1	13-09-2001	IL 121751 A	31-10-2001
			US 6186958 B1	13-02-2001
			US 6067989 A	30-05-2000
			AU 9182698 A	29-03-1999
			CN 1277545 T	20-12-2000
			EP 1018938 A2	19-07-2000
			WO 9912471 A2	18-03-1999
			JP 2001515745 T	25-09-2001
			AU 9279498 A	05-04-1999
			EP 1211502 A2	05-06-2002
			EP 1217355 A2	26-06-2002
			EP 1012573 A2	28-06-2000
			WO 9914576 A2	25-03-1999
			JP 2001516875 T	02-10-2001
WO 0225250	A	28-03-2002	JP 2002098629 A	05-04-2002
			JP 2002098635 A	05-04-2002
			AU 8806401 A	02-04-2002
			CA 2421509 A1	28-03-2002
			CN 1466675 T	07-01-2004
			EP 1320743 A2	25-06-2003
			WO 0225250 A2	28-03-2002
			MX PA03002592 A	30-06-2003
			TW 542910 B	21-07-2003
			US 2003178589 A1	25-09-2003